

# California Integrated Waste Management Board

## ***California Cut Its Trash by 50 Percent***

The California Integrated Waste Management Board, the State's primary recycling agency, strives to protect public health and safety and the environment by effectively managing the 72 million tons of waste generated each year. In 2002, the Board kept 48 percent of California's waste out of landfills while ensuring environmentally safe landfill disposal capacity.

Reducing, reusing, recycling, and buying recycled products saves energy and natural resources. These actions also reduce pollution from production and from mining, and increase the life of existing landfills. The Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, Sher, Chapter 1095, Statutes of 1989) contains waste reduction mandates for local governments in California. The Board helps communities meet their waste reduction goals.

**200 Million Tons Diverted.** Since 1990 when cities and counties began comprehensive recycling and waste reduction programs, Californians have kept more than 200 million tons of waste out its landfills.

## **Cities and Counties Reach 50 Percent**

**Diversion.** Since May 1998, the Board has been conducting biennial reviews of local governments' integrated waste management activities. These reviews looked at successful efforts to reach the 1995 mandate of 25 percent waste diversion from landfills that was established with the passage of AB 939.

By the end of 2002, 277 jurisdictions had met or exceeded the 50 percent recycling mandate. Preliminary data suggests that as many as half of the State's jurisdictions may have reached 50 percent diversion or higher in 2000. The Board has recognized many communities for their innovative

waste prevention, recycling, and composting programs. A combination of these programs is generally the most effective means of reducing the garbage going to landfills.

## ***Working for a Safer, Cleaner California***

Equally important to the Board's efforts to promote recycling statewide is its need to ensure safe and adequate landfill capacity for the state's waste that cannot be recycled or reused. Cleanup of dangerous and illegal dumping grounds is also a priority.

Through its work with local enforcement agencies (LEA) statewide, the Board is able to ensure that the state has an adequate number of facilities to handle communities' solid waste needs. The Board also sees that facilities operate within all guidelines necessary to protect public health and safety and the environment. These LEAs have helped the Board identify illegal dumping sites across the state that pose a danger to public health and the environment.

**California's Waste Tire Challenge.** In 2001 Californians generated an estimated 33.3 million waste tires. For years prior to the establishment of the Board, these tires often ended up in untended stockpiles across the state. In 1994, when new tire handling regulations took effect, an estimated 45 million tires were scattered in piles across the state. Approximately 1.6 million remain.

**Cleanup Grants.** The Local Government Waste Tire Cleanup Grant Program creates local partnerships and partnerships with California Indian tribes to facilitate the removal, transport, and disposal/reuse of waste tires from smaller tire piles. CIWMB accepts applications for the waste tire cleanup grant program throughout the year.

The Waste Tire Local Government Public Education and Amnesty Day Grant Program is an annual, competitive grant program that is available to local entities and benefits the public by (1) promoting education on the care of new tires and the proper disposal of used or waste tires, and (2) providing free disposal of waste tires during specific collection events.

**Markets for Waste Tires.** While working to clean up illegal tire stockpiles across the state, the Board is also concentrating on establishing sustainable markets to handle the 33.3 million tires generated in California each year.

**Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center.** In 1997 CIWMB contracted with Los Angeles County to establish the statewide Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Technology Center (RACTC). CIWMB also entered into a contract with Sacramento County's transportation division in January 2000 to operate a northern California RACTC.

The purpose of each RACTC is to increase the use of RAC by educating local government decision makers on its beneficial uses. To accomplish this purpose, each RACTC provides outreach and technical assistance on RAC projects, an informational Web site, and educational and informational materials on technology transfer for RAC processing and construction methods. Because of these efforts, an estimated 2 million waste tires have been recycled into RAC.

**Clean-up Activities.** The Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Cleanup Program (AB 2136, Eastin, Chapter 655, Statutes of 1993) established the Board's cleanup program for illegal or abandoned solid waste disposal sites. Since 1994, CIWMB has utilized contractors to remediate or stabilize illegal waste tire sites. As of December 2001, CIWMB had awarded four contracts totaling \$8.1 million. CIWMB has removed more than 11.2 million illegally stored/disposed waste tires from 44 sites at an average removal cost of \$0.61 per tire for a total cost of nearly \$6.9 million. Of the 11.2 million illegal waste tires removed, 77 percent were diverted from disposal in landfills.

## Developing Markets for Recyclables

The passage of AB 939 brought a new approach to waste management, including minimizing waste and maximizing the use of recyclable materials. Meeting these waste reduction challenges requires that waste prevention, material collection, and market development be sufficient to divert the millions of tons of diverse recyclable materials.

Toward that end, the Board created a market development program that promotes partnerships among State and local governments and businesses to stimulate market development for recycled materials. The program also encourages the manufacturing of value-added products and develops or expands self-sustaining businesses.

## Priority Planning for California's Future

As part of its strategic planning process, the Board has identified four priority areas to help California increase waste diversion and recycling while continuing to provide safe and adequate landfill capacity.

**Reduction of Organic Wastes.** This area involves a targeted approach to reducing the amount of organic materials in landfills through waste prevention and market development. Currently about 35 percent (almost 13 million tons) of landfill waste consists of these materials. Through composting, grasscycling (mowing lawns without a bag and allowing the clippings to decompose on the soil), sustainable landscaping (including plantings that minimize the generation of yard trimmings), and the use of innovative technologies, much of this material could be reduced in a beneficial way. The Board is also investigating conversion technology to turn unusable organic material into energy, ethanol, and other fuels and industrial products.

**Construction and Demolition Debris.** This priority area is focused on the reduction of construction and demolition debris, which makes up approximately 12 percent of the waste stream. These include materials generated at construction sites, military base closures, and during natural disasters.

**Helping Local Government.** In all parts of the state, waste management programs have been established to promote and assist local governments and their business partners in implementing efforts that reduce and recycle waste. As part of this effort the Board, through its Trash Cutters Award Program, has recognized 43 cities and counties since August 1998 that have implemented outstanding recycling and waste reduction programs. These outstanding programs are featured as case studies on the Board's Web site at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Trashcutters/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Trashcutters/). These are available for cities and counties still working to meet the AB 939 waste diversion mandates.

Another planning tool available to local governments is a series of case studies highlighting innovative and successful local and regional recycling and waste reduction programs around the state. Information on these programs is available at

[www.ciwmb.ca.gov/lgcentral/events/Innovations/](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/lgcentral/events/Innovations/).

**Improving Facility Compliance.** This effort will increase solid waste facility compliance with the State's regulations, which are designed to protect the environment and provide public health and safety. The Board's actions will involve bringing into compliance facilities that violate the State's minimum standards and ensuring that active, unpermitted sites obtain permits.

**The energy challenge facing California is real.** Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut energy costs, **Flex Your Power** and visit [www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html).